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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

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5 August 1969

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Approved For Release 2003/03/28 : CIA-RDP79T00975A014300020001-0

Approved For Release 2003/03/28 : CIA-RDP79T00975A014300020001-0

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No. 0186/69
5 August 1969

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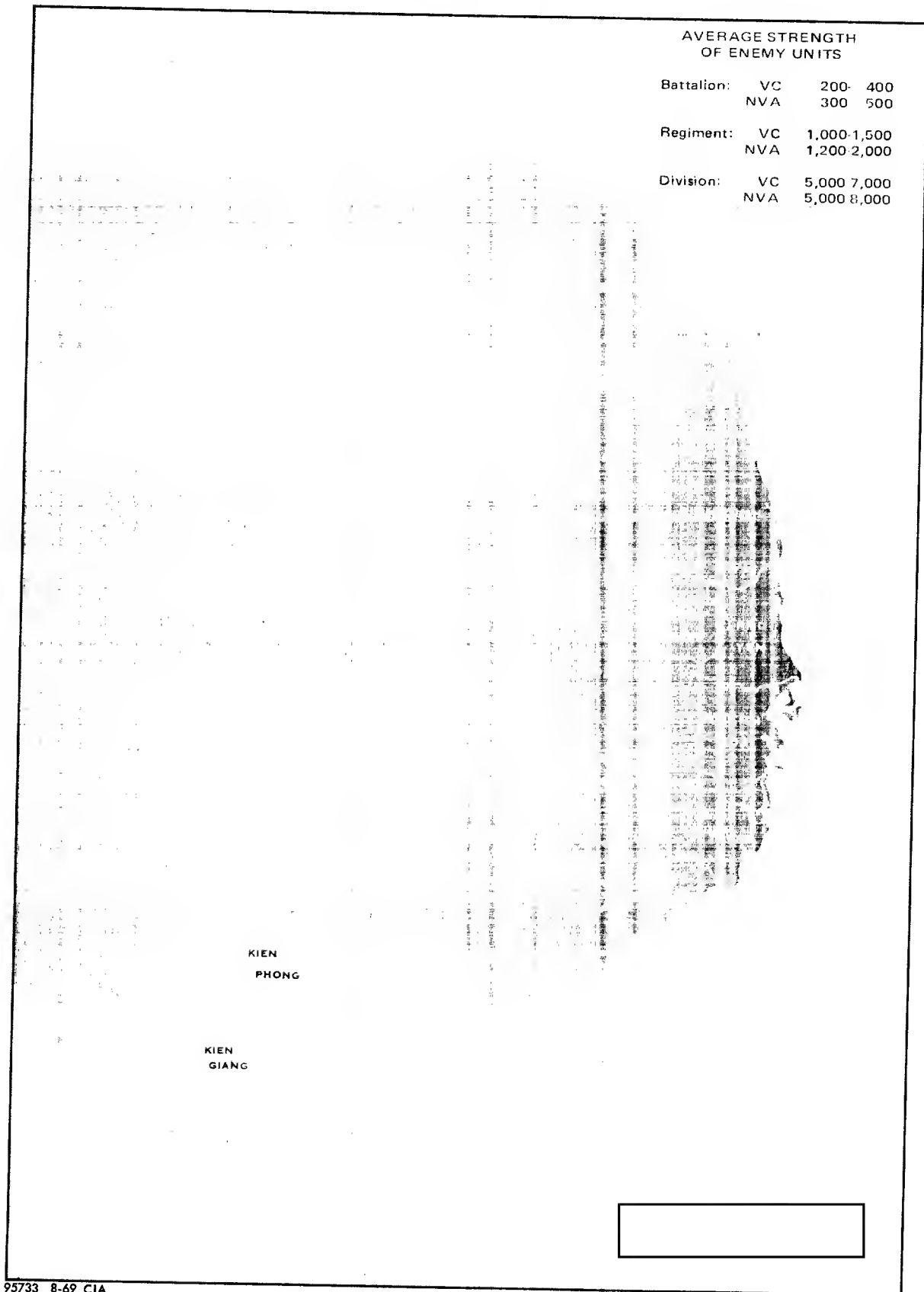
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South Vietnam: Allied forces initiated ground fighting in several areas of South Vietnam on 3-4 August, but the seven-week lull in significant enemy attacks continued.

In the Mekong Delta, South Vietnamese armed forces continued to carry action to the enemy. Regular army troops killed 40 Communist troops in Kien Giang Province in a battle with a battalion believed to belong to the Viet Cong 273rd Regiment, and South Vietnamese Marines killed an additional 14 enemy in a nearby encounter. Since 30 July, the South Vietnamese daily have engaged forces thought to be part of the 273rd and have killed over 200 enemy troops.

Captured documents indicate that the 273rd has suffered "considerable casualties" since moving from III Corps to IV Corps last spring. The Communists ascribed their losses to poor security procedures while in transit and "irresponsible statements" by members of the regiment to local Vietnamese.

South Vietnamese Regional Forces troops also inflicted significant losses on the enemy in a battle in Kien Phong Province, killing 29 Viet Cong. [REDACTED]

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Israel: The struggle within the Israel Labor Party over the adoption of a policy on the disposition of the occupied territories remains unresolved.

The party platform committee has adopted a platform that pledges never to return to the pre-1967 boundaries or to give up East Jerusalem. In addition, the platform calls for Israel to retain "strategic security borders." This wording probably was an attempt to reach a compromise between Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and the forces of Prime Minister Golda Meir and Foreign Minister Abba Eban.

Dayan has called for prohibition of foreign armed forces in the West Bank area and for continued Israeli control of the Golan Heights and the Gaza Strip. The Dayan formula would leave the political control of the West Bank open, but would establish the Jordan River as a strategic boundary and would ensure freedom of navigation through the Gulf of Aqaba by stationing Israeli troops at Sharm ash-Shaykh. Mrs. Meir and Eban would prefer to wait for direct peace talks with the Arabs before taking any stand on the future of the occupied territories.

[The platform will probably be ratified by the party convention in the next few days, leaving the division between Dayan and the Meir-Eban group still threatening party unity.]

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Argentina: Military authorities are moving against a small group of troublesome right-wing nationalist officers.

During the past two weeks at least three army colonels have been removed from their posts and placed under 20-day arrest, and a general has been pressured into retiring. In addition to criticizing President Ongania and his administration, these officers have frequently been linked to rumors of military conspiracies against the government, but little evidence of the nature and extent of their plotting has come to light.

It is not clear whether these officers had any connection with the handful of nationalists, made up of retired military men and civilians, who took over a radio station in Cordoba on 31 July and broadcast a proclamation that Ongania had been overthrown. Five of the conspirators have been seized and charged with rebellion and sedition, while six others are being sought.

Normally this type of shadowy plotting by nationalists causes no serious concern for the government. Since the outbreak of labor and student unrest in May, however, the administration and military commanders have become very sensitive to any potential threat to the unity and discipline of the armed forces, Ongania's principal base of support. A statement made on 3 August by the interior minister--a retired general--that the government is threatened by a subversive plan executed by foreign agents and supported by Fidel Castro may be an attempt to divert public attention from the rumors of military unrest.

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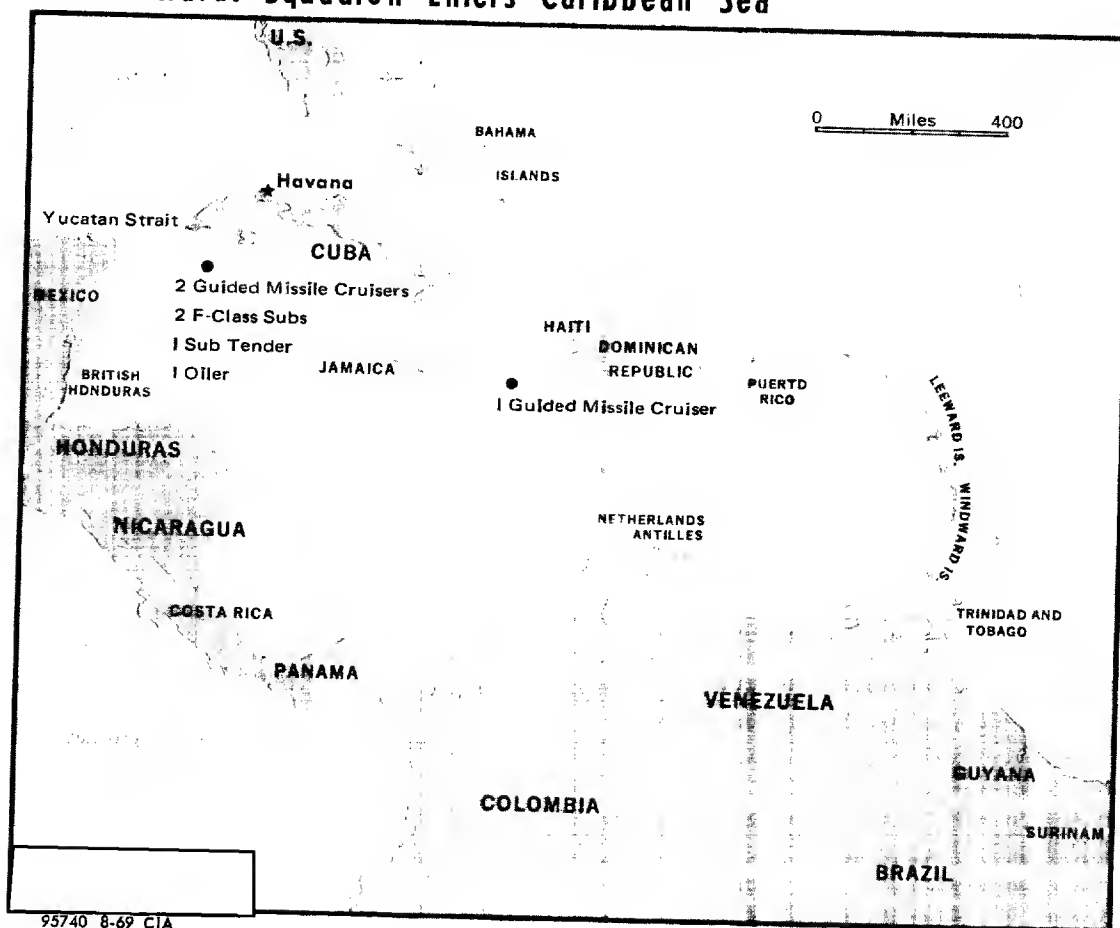
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Soviet Naval Squadron Enters Caribbean Sea



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USSR-Caribbean: The Soviet naval squadron sailed from the Gulf of Mexico into the Caribbean Sea through the Yucatan Strait early yesterday. The ships operated north of the Yucatan Peninsula in the week following their visit to Havana. Moscow apparently was not able to arrange a port visit in Mexico, and the warships may operate in the Caribbean or tropical waters of the Atlantic before returning to Soviet ports.

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Communist China: An authoritative editorial marking last week's Army Day celebrations suggests that the army is continuing to encounter problems in carrying out its domestic political tasks. Citing a new quotation from Mao as its authority, the editorial warns the army that it must not be "crude and careless" because that "often leads to errors"--an implication that some elements in the regime are dissatisfied with the military's performance in some areas. The appearance during the celebrations of high military leaders from some of China's most troubled provinces suggests that Peking is still untangling local political disputes in which the army plays a key role.

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Bolivia: The Supreme Court is considering a motion to dissolve Congress, which is scheduled to reconvene on 6 August. The present congressmen were elected under the pre-1967 constitution, but special legislation was passed permitting them to remain in office under the 1967 document. If this legislation is declared unconstitutional, Congress will not be able to meet.

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International Trade: The meeting of wheat exporters in London on 1-2 August, which was to consider ways to avoid all-out price competition in the international wheat trade, seems to have produced a stand-off. The European Communities' delegate said at the outset that he had no mandate to negotiate and was not prepared to accept or propose anything. It became clear, however, that the EC would be willing to restore its offer to stop subsidizing wheat exports to Far Eastern markets in return for a rollback of recent US and Canadian price cuts. No progress was made on this point, however, and the meeting concluded with the EC reluctantly agreeing to participate in a meeting of experts on 11 August.

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